

MARVEL

1

DAN ABNETT
DAMIAN COUCEIRO
MATT MILLA

THOR



**PLANET X,
LONG AGO...**

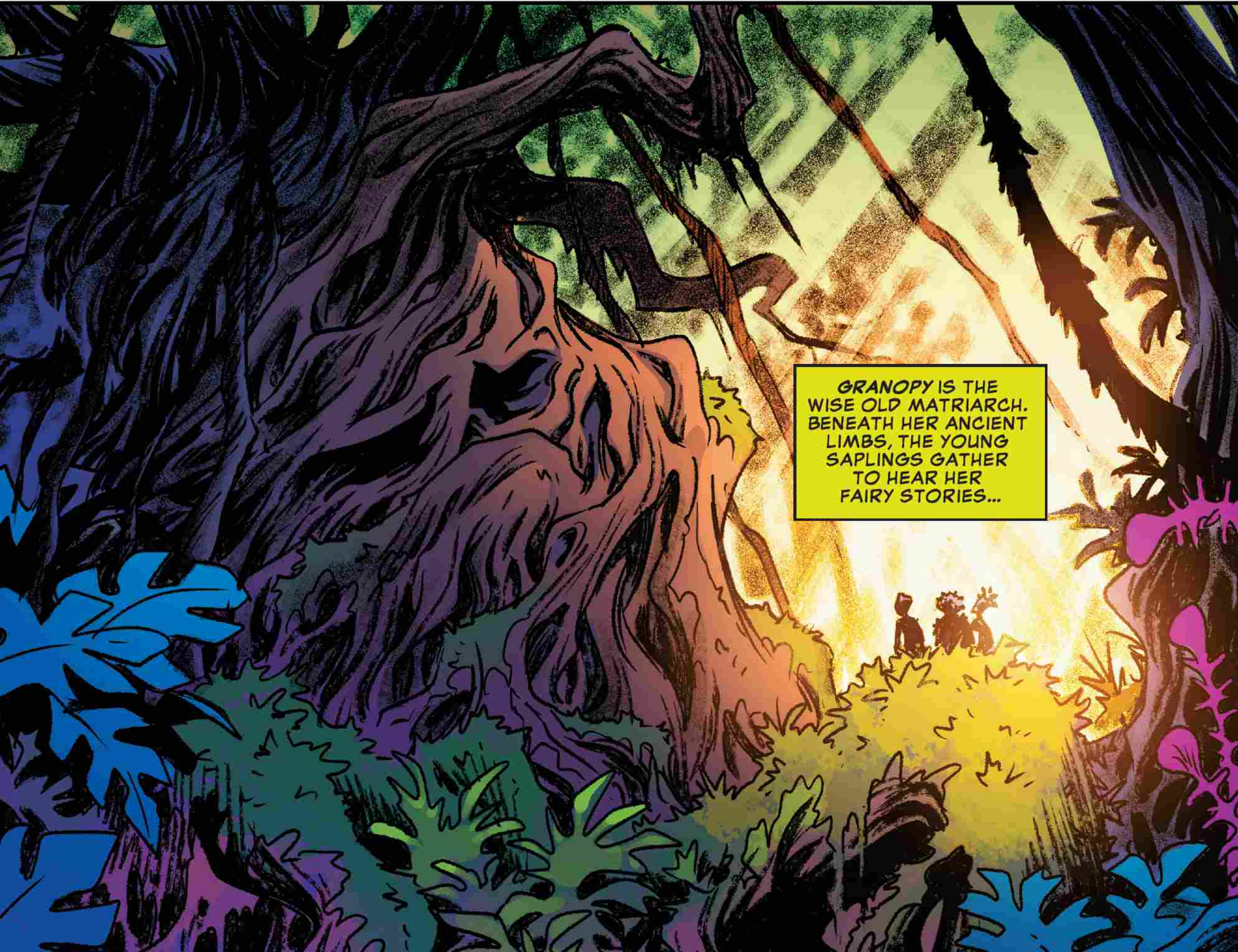
LIFE IS SIMPLE
HERE. SIMPLE
AND SLOW.



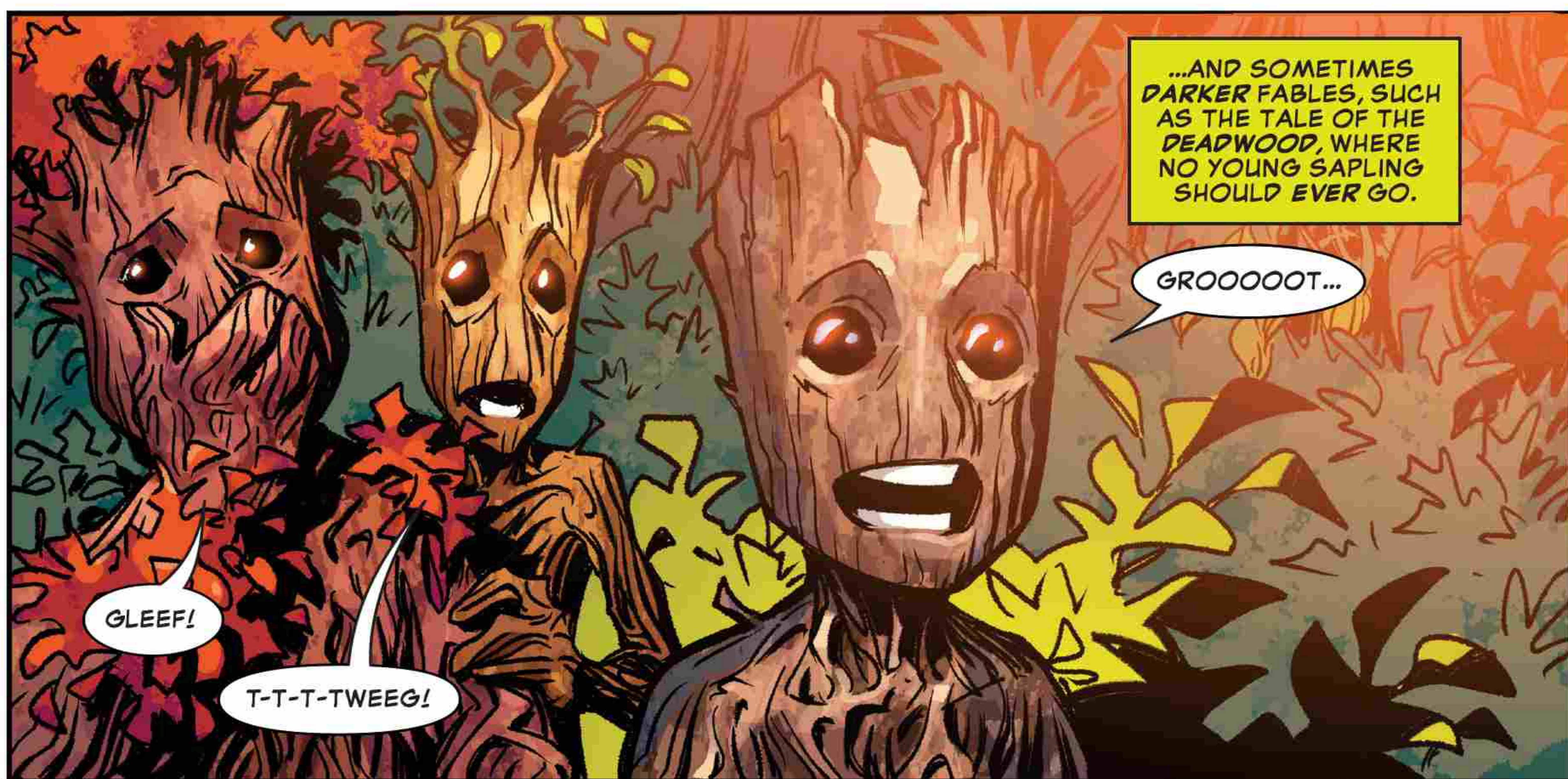
THE GREAT TREE-FOLK
DOMINATE THE LAND-
MASSSES AND WATCH
THE SEASONS PASS.

SOME OF
THEM ARE
TWO OR THREE
MILES TALL.

THEY BARELY STIR.
IN THE RUSTLE OF
THEIR LEAVES,
THEY MURMUR
THEIR MEMORIES.



GRANOPY IS THE
WISE OLD MATRIARCH.
BENEATH HER ANCIENT
LIMBS, THE YOUNG
SAPLINGS GATHER
TO HEAR HER
FAIRY STORIES...





GROOT!
GROOT!

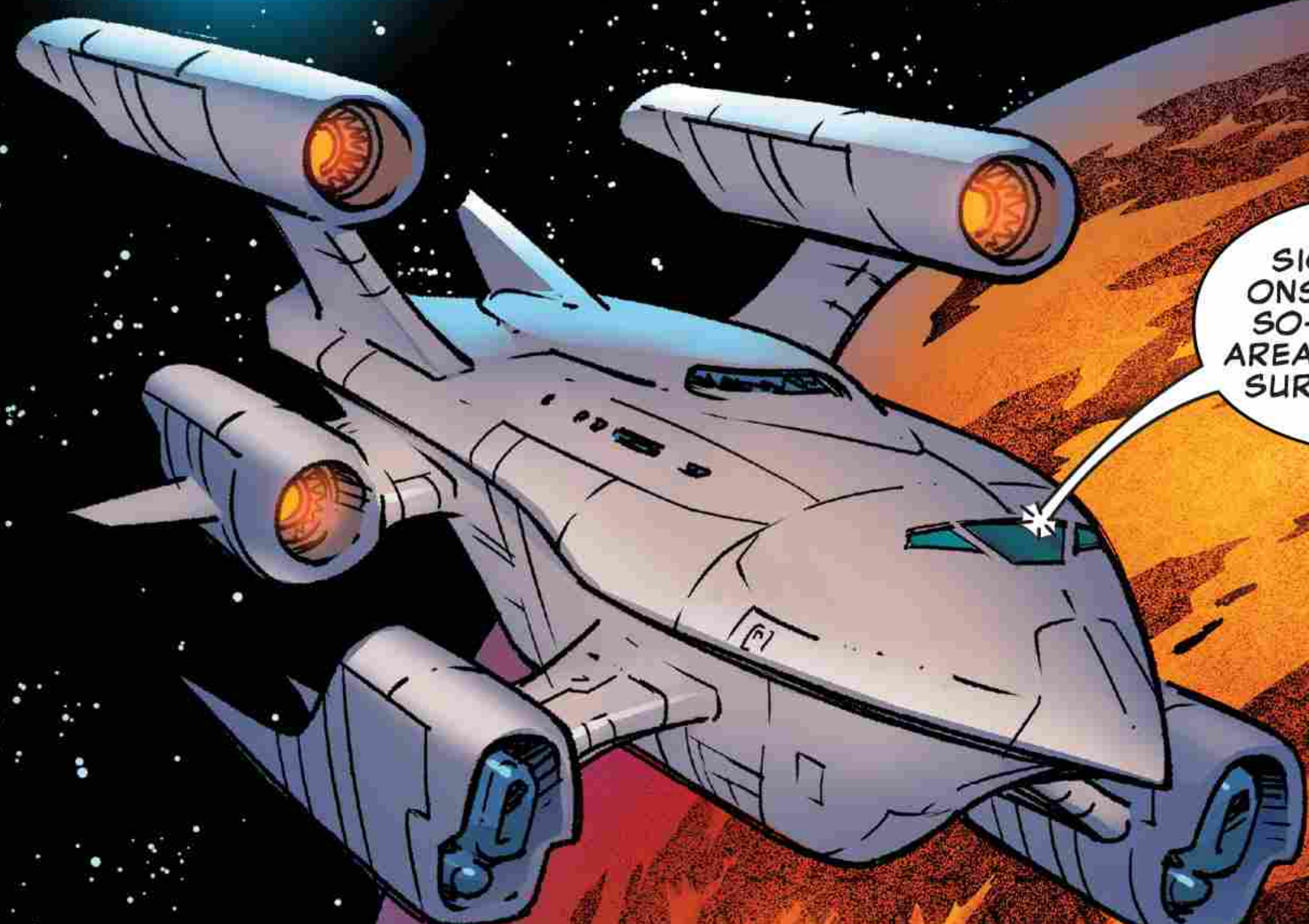
G-GLEEF!

TWEEEEEEEEEG!

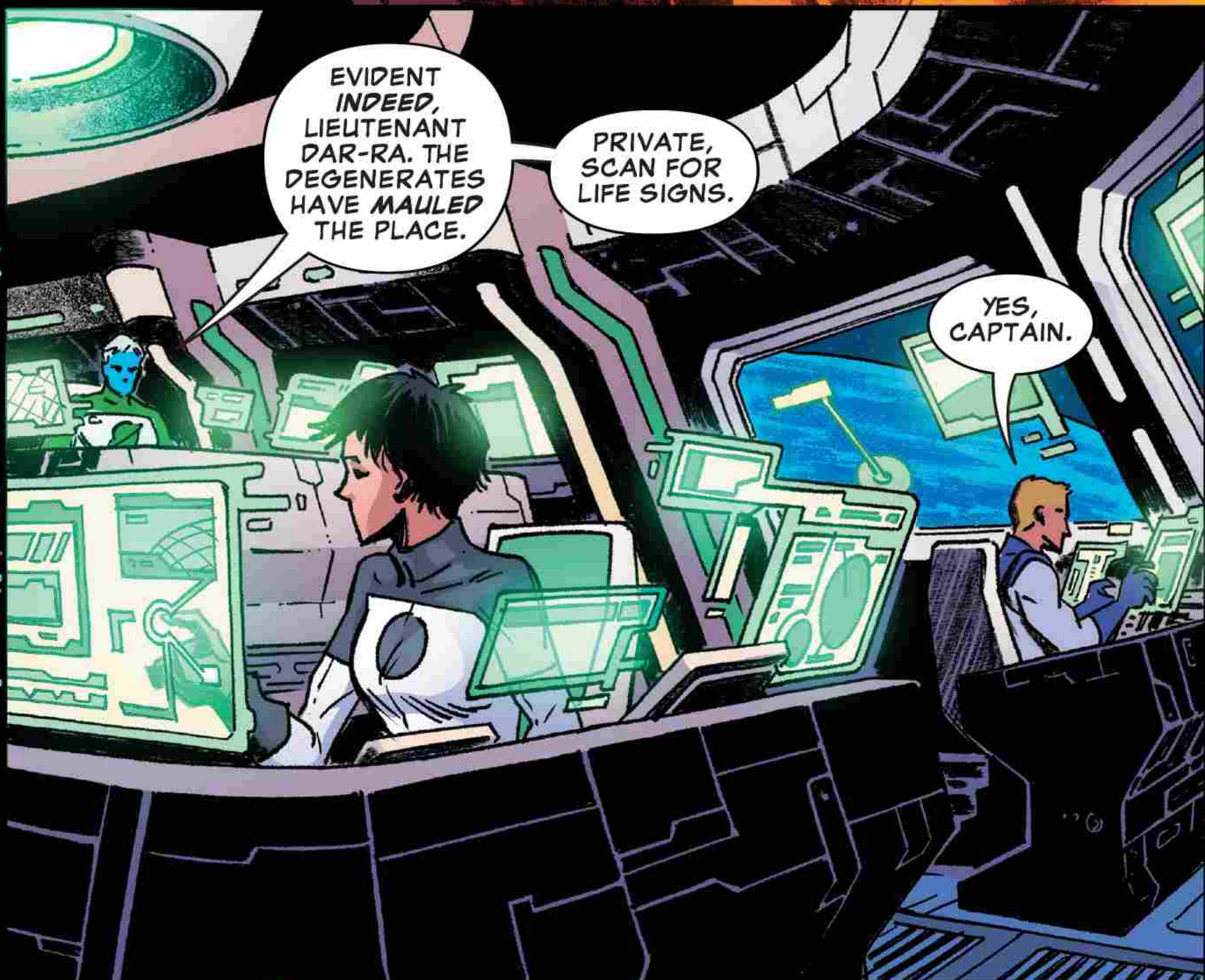


SOME MONTHS LATER...

THANTALIS,
AT THE EDGE OF THE
KREE STELLAR EMPIRE...



EVIDENT
SIGNS OF SPOILER
ONSLAUGHT, CAPTAIN
SO-LAR. SIGNIFICANT
AREAS OF THE PLANET'S
SURFACE ARE IGNITED
AND--



EVIDENT
INDEED,
LIEUTENANT
DAR-RA. THE
DEGENERATES
HAVE MAULED
THE PLACE.

PRIVATE,
SCAN FOR
LIFE SIGNS.

YES,
CAPTAIN.



LIEUTENANT,
OPEN AN OMNI-
WAVE CHANNEL
TO STARFORCE
COMMAND.

COMMS
OPEN,
CAPTAIN.







BY
SUPREMOR!
CHAINSAURS?

THEY'VE
UNLEASHED
CHAINSAURS?

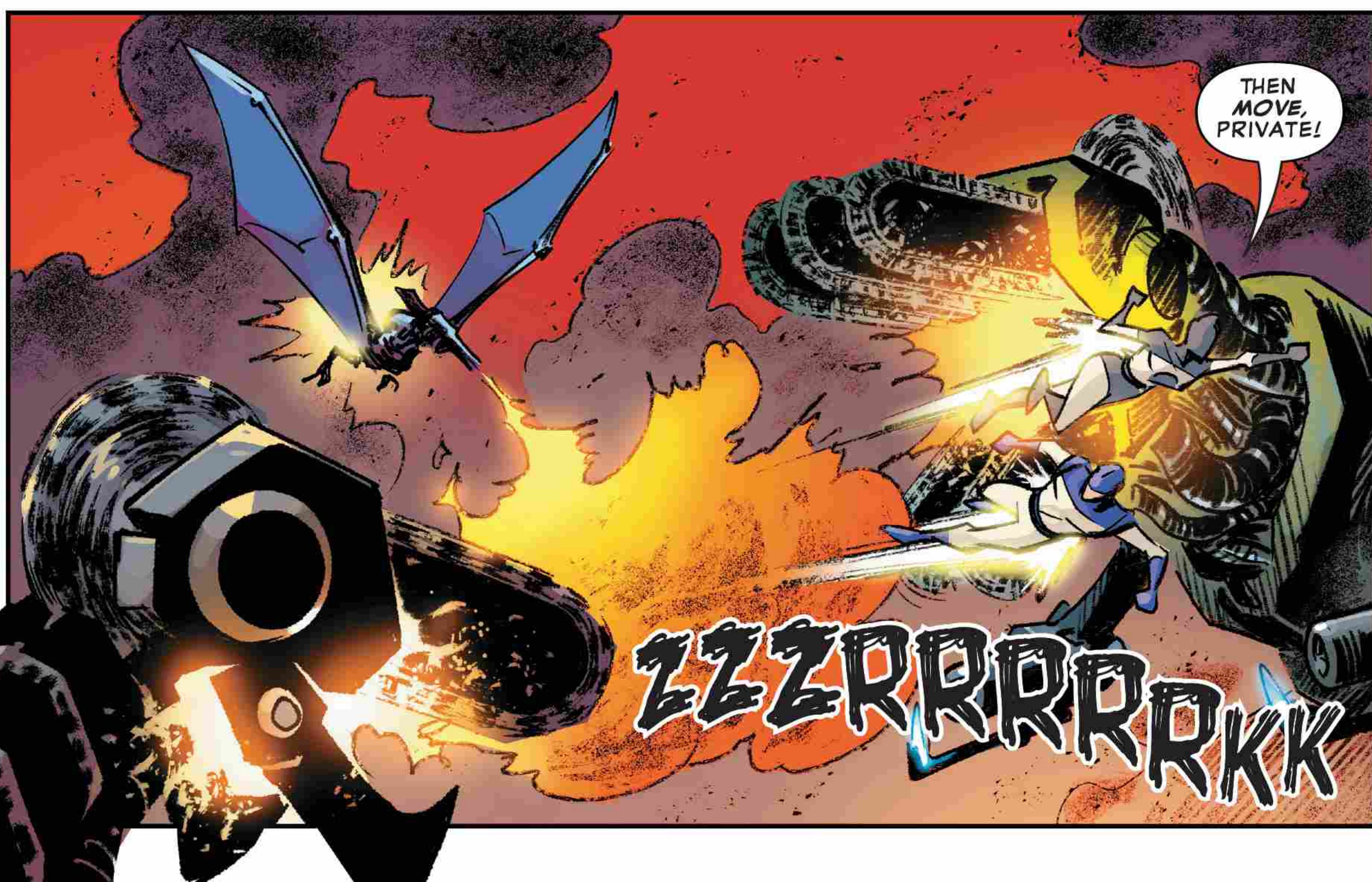
ZZZZ

ZZZ

ZZZ

ZZRRRR

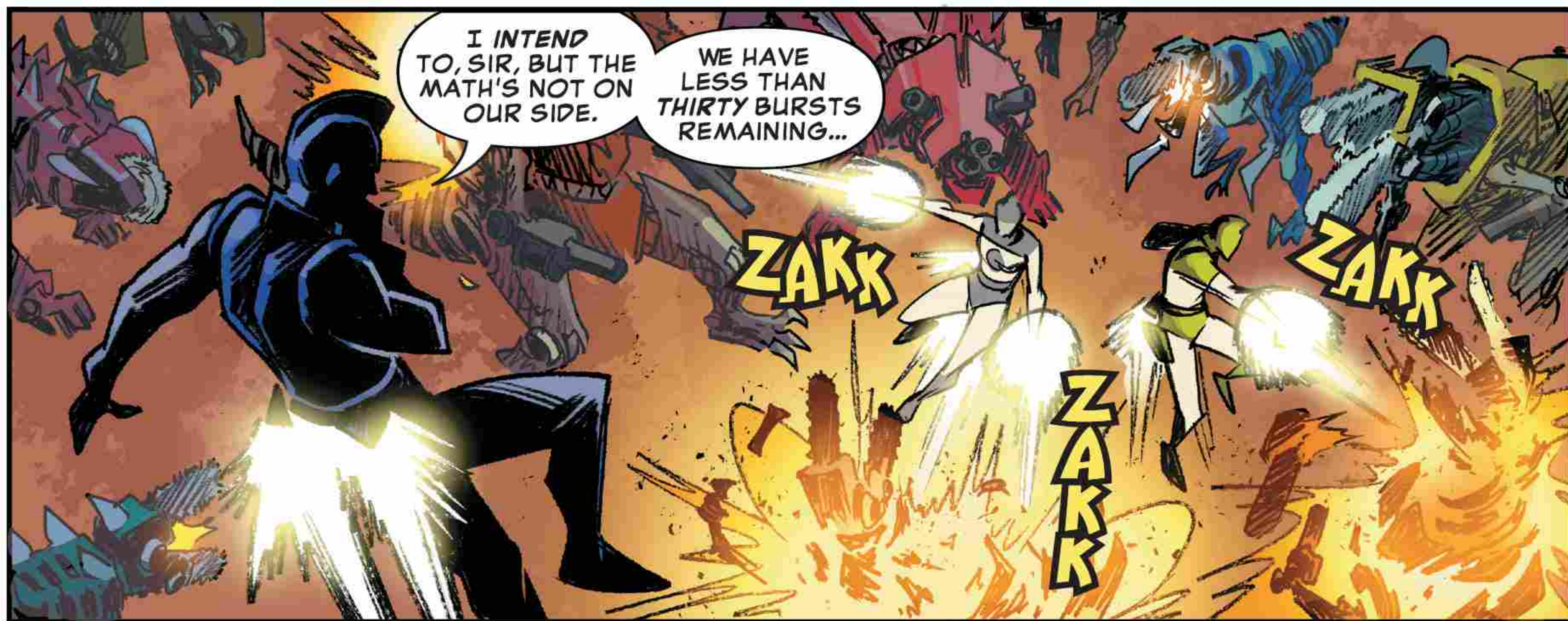






SET YOUR BEAMS TO
OVERPOWER! IT'S THE ONLY
WAY WE'RE GOING TO TAKE
THESE THINGS DOWN!





I INTEND TO, SIR, BUT THE MATH'S NOT ON OUR SIDE.

WE HAVE LESS THAN THIRTY BURSTS REMAINING...

ZAKK

ZAKK

ZAKK



ZAKK

...AND I'M TARGET-TAGGING FIFTY-SEVEN OF THESE CHAINSAUR THINGS.



NO ONE SAID LIFE IN THE STARFORCE WOULD BE EASY, PRIVATE.

ZAKK

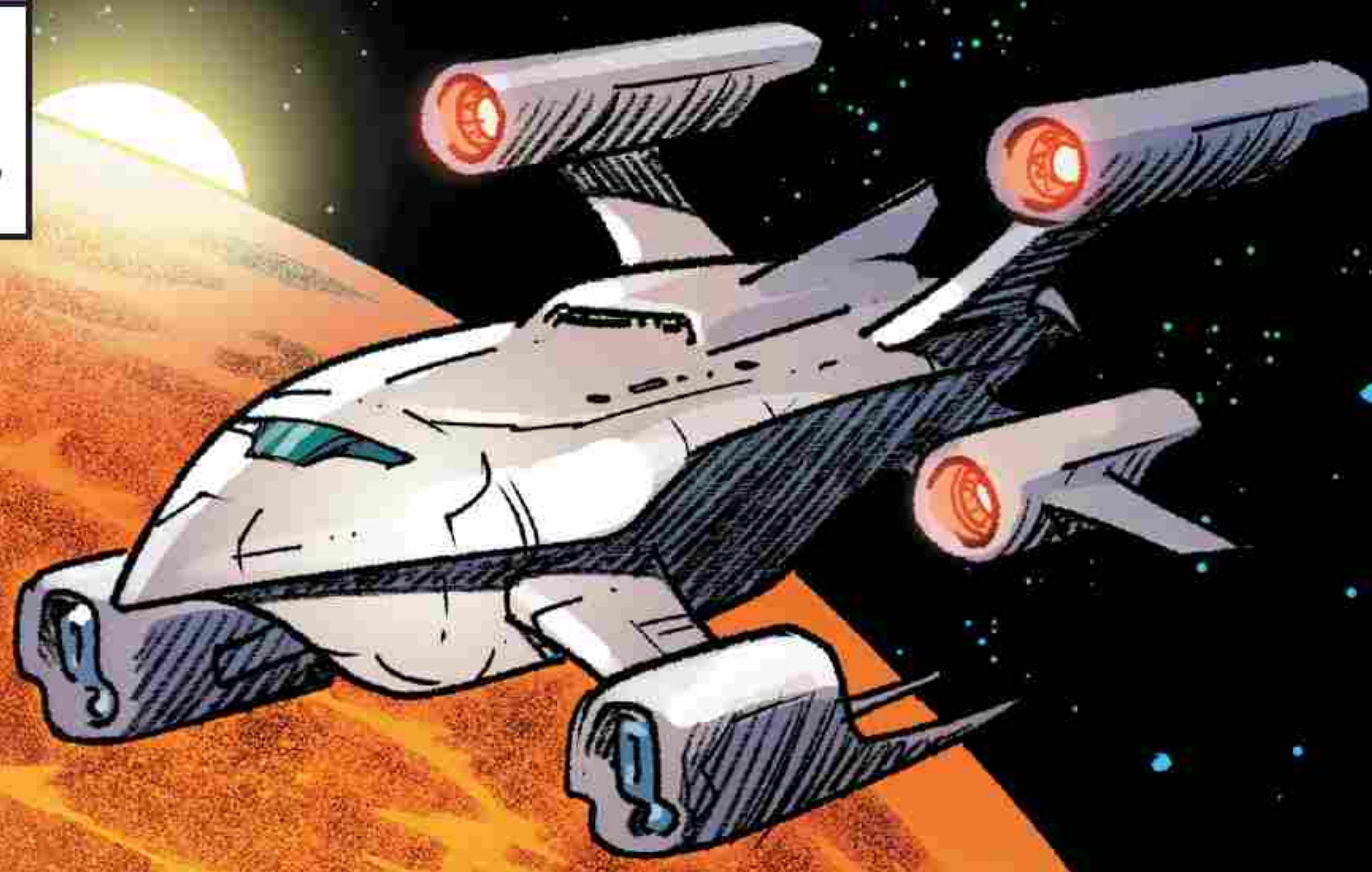


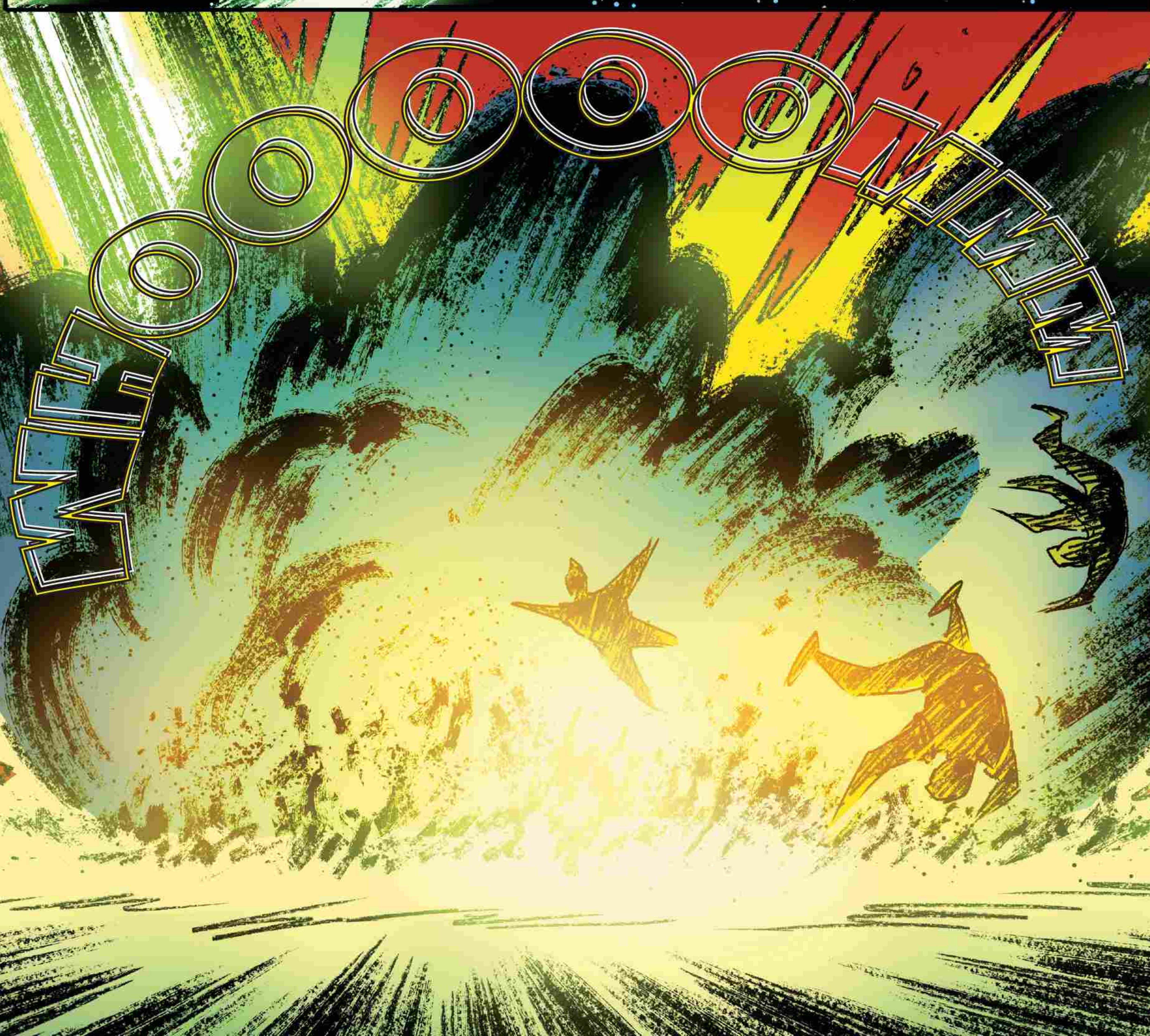
NO, SIR! BUT IT COULD AT LEAST BE EFFICIENT.

THE HOSTILES ARE GROUPED AS A PACK. RELAYING CENTER-MASS COORDINATES TO THE HALA.

PRIVATE, WHAT ARE--?

"I'M REMOTE ALIGNING THE SHIP'S UNI-BATTERIES."







HOSTILES
NEUTRALIZED,
SIR.

SURFACE
STRIKE,
PRIVATE?

YES,
CAPTAIN. IT
SEEMED THE
ONLY WAY
TO--

UH...
PROBLEM?



THAT BATTERY
STRIKE DEPLETED
THE SHIP'S POWER,
PRIVATE!

IF
THERE
ARE SPOILER
SHIPS IN-
SYSTEM, WE
NOW DON'T
HAVE THE
RESERVES TO
ENGAGE
THEM!

I...I'M
SORRY,
CAPTAIN.



I LIKE
INITIATIVE, MAR-VELL,
BUT THAT WAS
IMPULSIVE.

IT...IT
WAS A HOSTILE
CONTACT, SIR, I
THOUGHT--

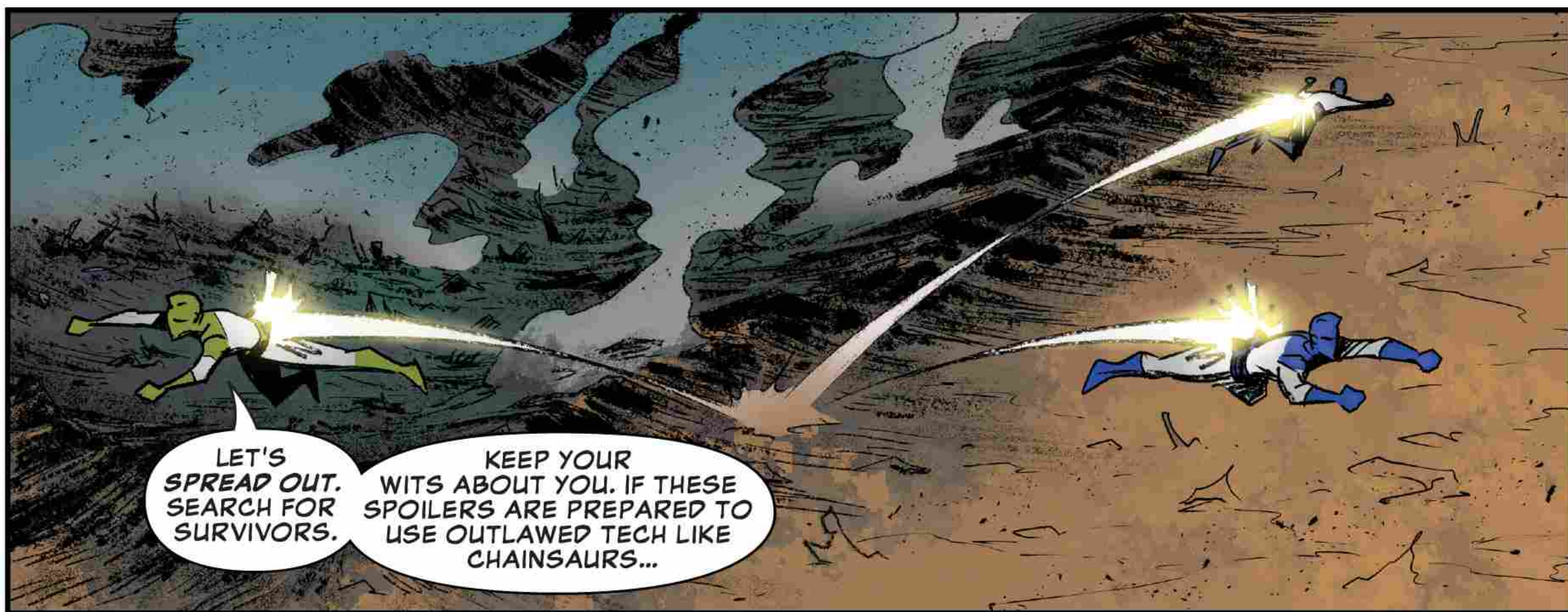
NEXT
TIME, THINK
HARDER!



YOU MAY HAVE
LEFT US WIDE OPEN
TO ATTACK.

YES,
SIR.

YOU'RE
INEXPERIENCED, MAR-VELL.
FRESH OUT OF BASIC. DON'T
GET TOO SURE OF YOURSELF.



LET'S
SPREAD OUT.
SEARCH FOR
SURVIVORS.

KEEP YOUR
WITS ABOUT YOU. IF THESE
SPOILERS ARE PREPARED TO
USE OUTLAWED TECH LIKE
CHAINSAURS...



"...THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT ELSE WE'LL FIND. AND MAR-VELL? STAR-FORCE REGULATIONS. BY THE BOOK, PLEASE."

THIS IS DAR-RA. COVERING GRID TEN. NO SIGN OF LIFE HERE.

THIS IS MAR-VELL. READ THAT. ENTERING GRID TWELVE NOW.



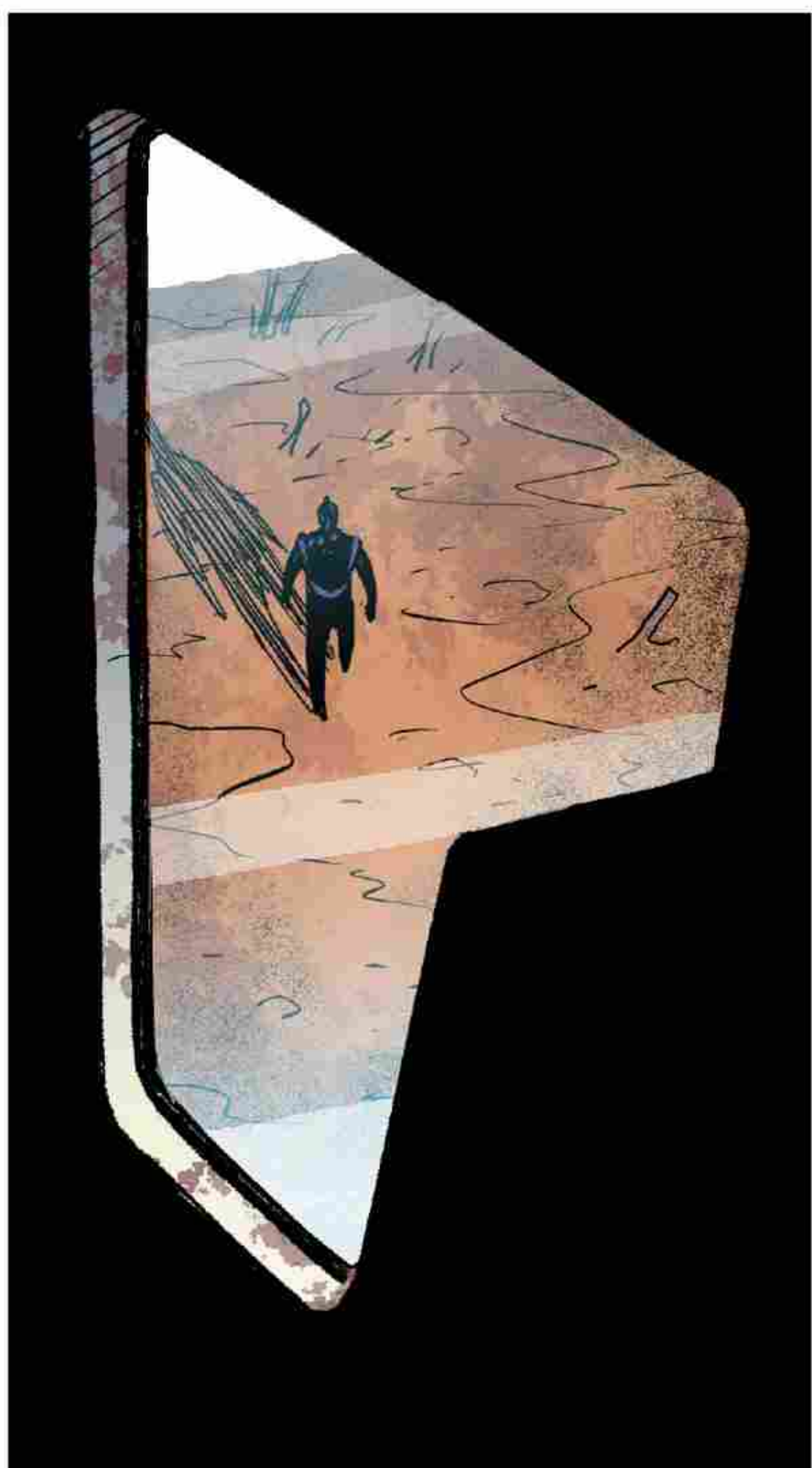
I'VE GOT SOMETHING. LOOKS LIKE SOME OLD CARGO PODS.

DESCENDING TO CHECK IT OUT.

PROCEED WITH CAUTION, PRIVATE. DO YOU NEED ASSIST?

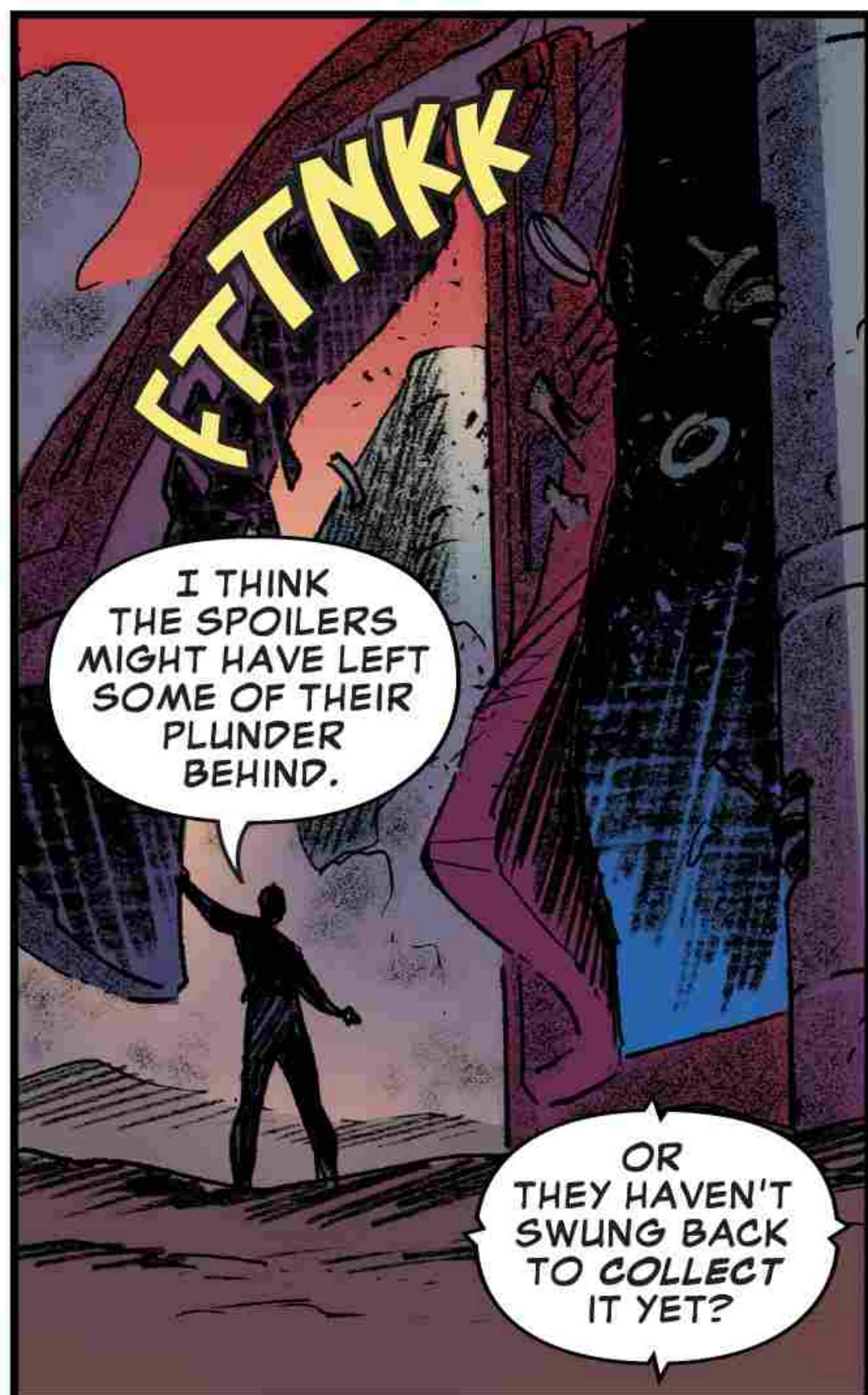


STAND BY.

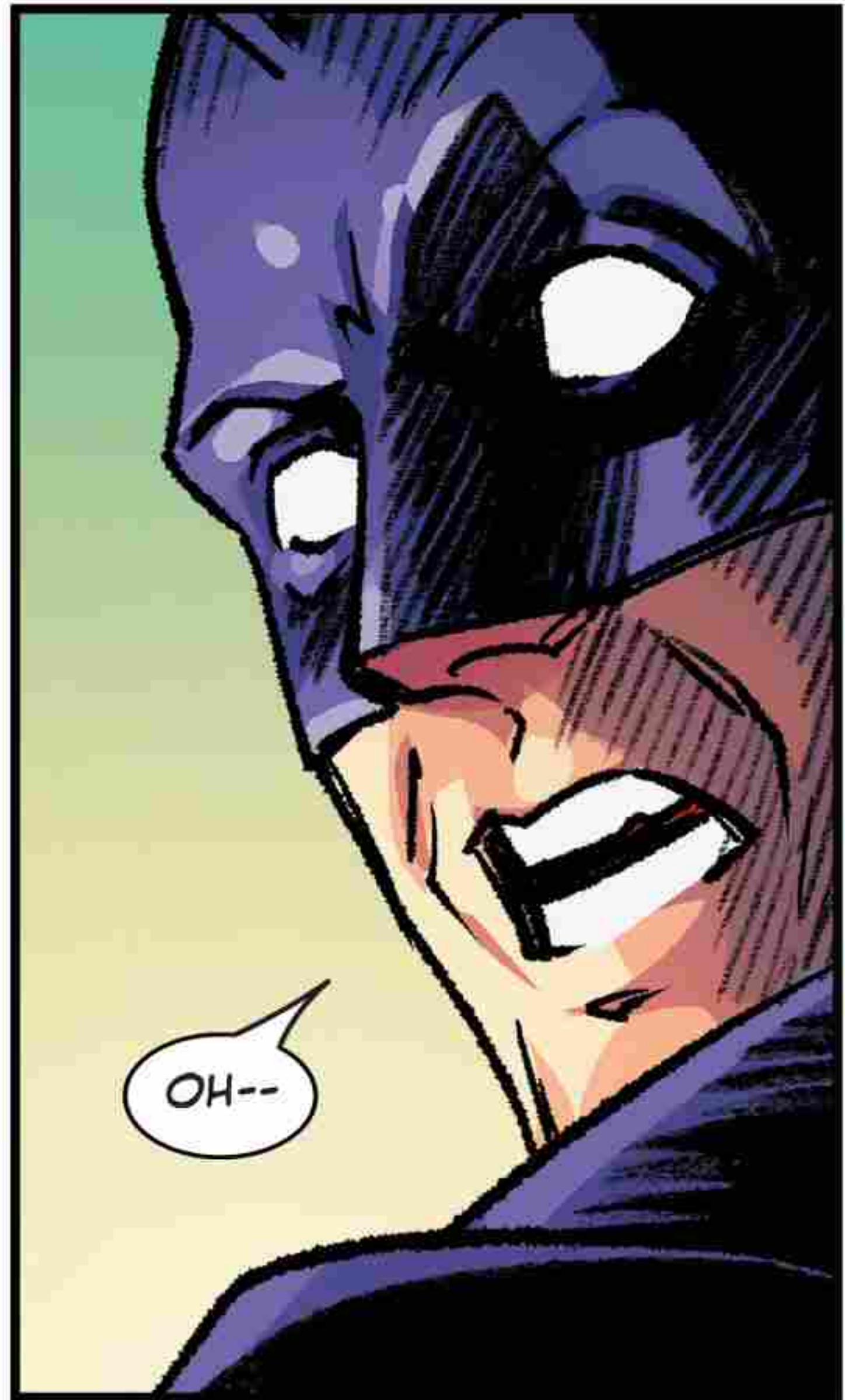


CONFIRMING SIX STANDARD-PATTERN CARGO MODULES.

BULK FREIGHTING UNITS.















BUT THE SPOILERS
MAY HAVE HIT
PLANET X TOO AND
TAKEN THESE THREE
AS...SLAVES. OR
TROPHIES.

I DON'T KNOW.
I WISH OUR
TRANSLATORS
COULD DECIPHER
THEM SO THEY
COULD TELL
US.

I AM
GROOT!

TWEEG!

GLEEFL!



YOU WANT TO
TAKE THEM
HOME, DON'T
YOU?

THEY'RE
CHILDREN, DAR-RA.
ABDUCTED. TRAFFICKED.
OF COURSE I WANT TO
GET THEM HOME.

BUT STARFORCE ALSO
NEEDS TO KNOW IF PLANET X
IS ANOTHER SPOILER TARGET.



NOT OUR
DECISION, PRIVATE
MAR-VELL.

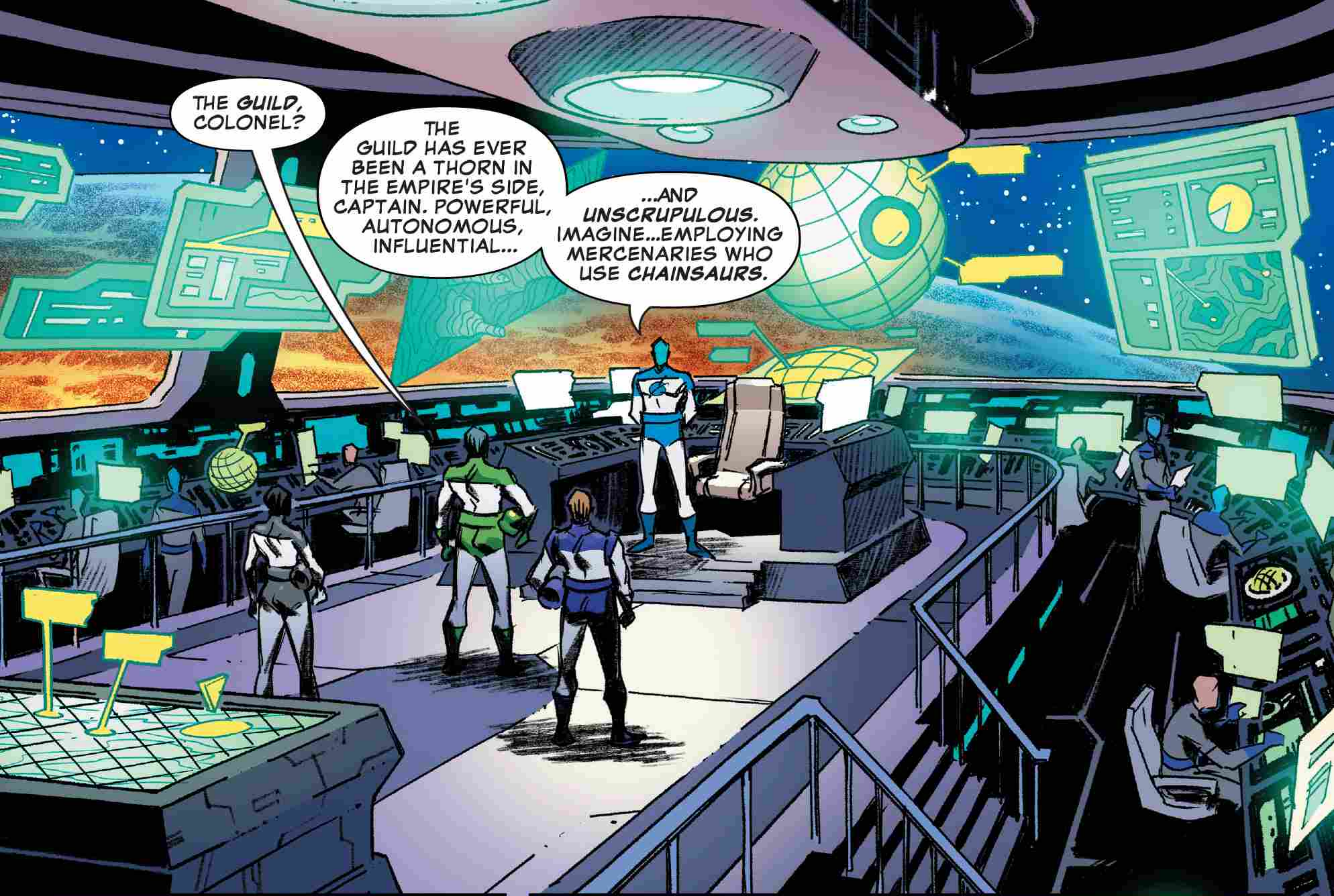
THE FLEET'S
ARRIVED...



"...IT'S
COLONEL
YON-ROGG
HIMSELF."

WELL, THE
INTEL SUGGESTS
THIS "AGZ" AND
HIS SPOILERS ARE
COMMODITY
RAIDERS.

MY GUESS IS
THEY'RE LOOTING
RAW MATERIALS
FOR THE GALACTIC
MERCHANT
GUILD.



THE GUILD, COLONEL?

THE GUILD HAS EVER BEEN A THORN IN THE EMPIRE'S SIDE, CAPTAIN. POWERFUL, AUTONOMOUS, INFLUENTIAL...

...AND UNSCRUPULOUS. IMAGINE...EMPLOYING MERCENARIES WHO USE CHAINSAURS.



AN OUTRAGE, COLONEL.

ALSO THE LEVERAGE WE NEED, SO-LAR. EVIDENCE OF A BARBARIC CRIME WE CAN USE TO FINALLY PROSECUTE AND DISMANTLE THE GUILD.



MY TASK FORCE HAS DETECTED THE SPOILER FLEET'S WARP TRACK. WE WILL PURSUE AT ONCE AND HUNT THEM TO DESTRUCTION.

NO MORE WORLDS WILL SUFFER THIS PLUNDER.

COLONEL?



WHAT?

REQUESTING PERMISSION TO REPATRIATE THE PLANET X NATIVES.

AND YOU ARE?

PRIVATE MAR-VELL, SIR.



I CAN'T SPARE A SHIP DURING A FLEET ACTION, MAR-VELL.

WITH RESPECT, COLONEL, STARFORCE HAS A DUTY OF CARE TO ALL VICTIMS OF AGGRESSION AND PERSECUTION.



VERY DILIGENT OF YOU TO POINT OUT MY OBLIGATIONS, PRIVATE--

COLONEL, WE SHOULD ALSO DETERMINE IF PLANET X HAS BEEN HIT. MORE EVIDENCE FOR YOUR CASE AGAINST THE GUILD.



VERY WELL, CAPTAIN SO-LAR. THE DUTY IS YOURS.

BUT I'M NOT WASTING MANPOWER. YOUR LIEUTENANT, DAR-RA, WILL TRANSFER TO MY CRUISER.

REPLENISH YOUR SHIP. THE TWO OF YOU CAN HANDLE IT. REPORT YOUR FINDINGS TO ME.

THAT WILL BE ALL.



THANK YOU, CAPTAIN. I GUESS I STEPPED OUT OF LINE AG--

I'VE NEVER LIKED YON-ROGG. TOO MUCH OF A CAREERIST.

BESIDES, YOU WERE RIGHT.



MAYBE, BUT I'VE SADDLED YOU WITH A LOWLY CHAPERONE DUTY.

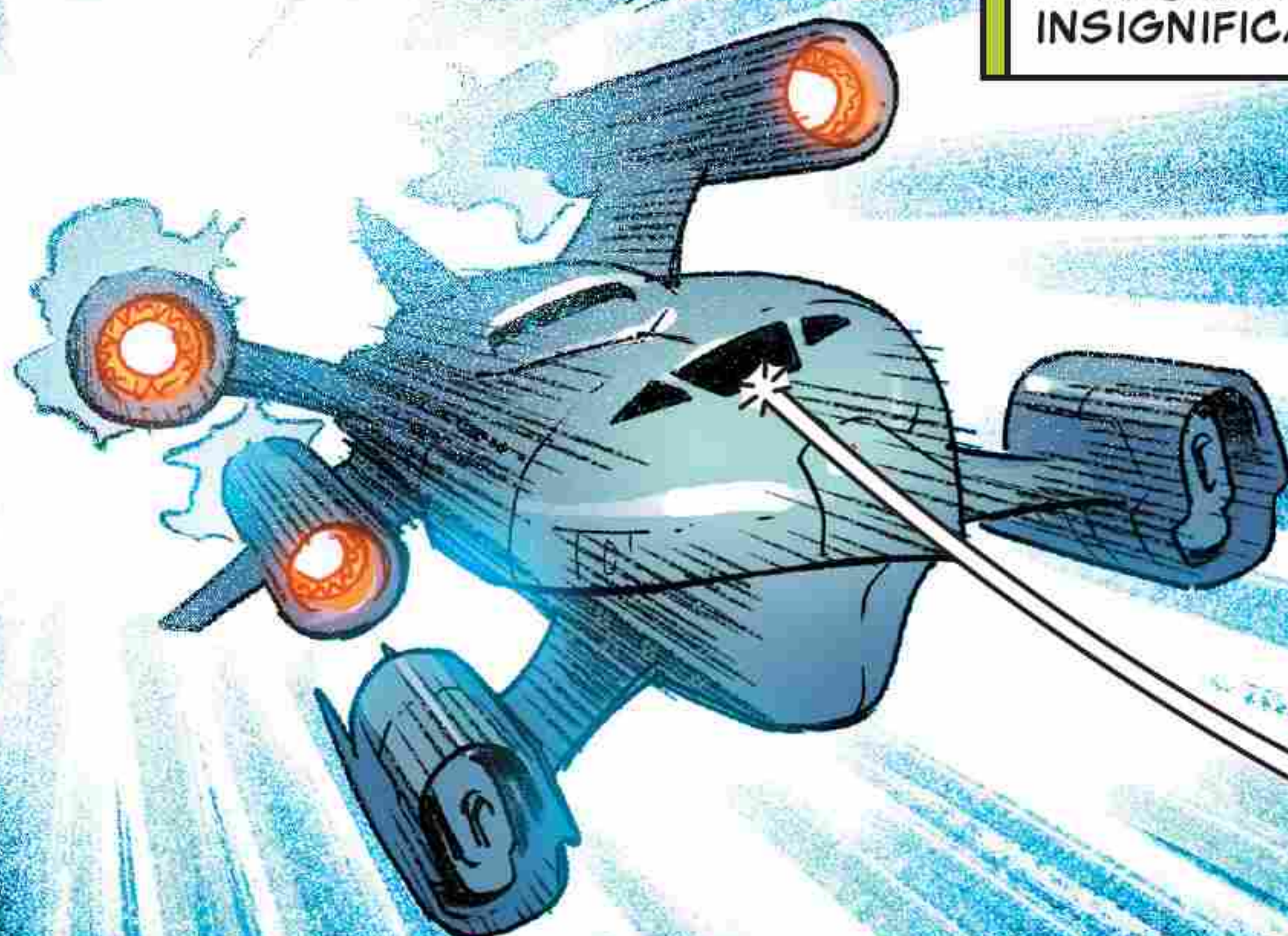
SIR, I'D BE HAPPY TO HANDLE IT SOLO SO YOU CAN SEE SOME ACTION.

NOT POSSIBLE, PRIVATE. REGULATIONS.

A CAPTAIN MUST BE PRESENT TO COMMAND ANY STARFORCE MISSION...

"...HOWEVER INSIGNIFICANT."

STARFORCE VESSEL HALA
EN ROUTE TO PLANET X.



COURSE LOCKED. VELOCITY LIGHT BY NINE.

WE SHOULD BE THERE IN SIX CYCLES...



...THAT MIGHT GIVE US ENOUGH TIME TO SEE IF WE CAN CRACK THEIR LANGUAGE, DON'T YOU THINK?

PERHAPS, SIR...

GROOT!

GLEEF!

TWEEG!



ARE THOSE THEIR NAMES?

MAYBE, SIR. I DON'T KNOW. IT SEEMS LIKE THEY'RE USING THE SAME SOUNDS TO CONVEY DIFFERENT MEANINGS.

TWEEG!

GROOT!
GLEEF!



EMPATHICS?

MORE LIKE INFLECTION. SOPHISTICATED BUT VERY SUBTLE. I DON'T THINK OUR EARS CAN DISTINGUISH THE NUANCES.

I'LL TRY WASHING IT THROUGH VOCAL COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS.



I WISH WE KNEW MORE ABOUT THEM. BUT THEIR HOME-WORLD IS SO REMOTE.

WE HAVE NO DATA ON PLANET X.

NOT EVEN A NAME.

YOU UNCOVERED THIS MYSTERY, PRIVATE. FIND ME SOME ANSWERS.



CYCLE TWO OF TRIP.

I AM GROOT!

YOU ARE GROOT?

I AM GROOT!

AM I GROOT?

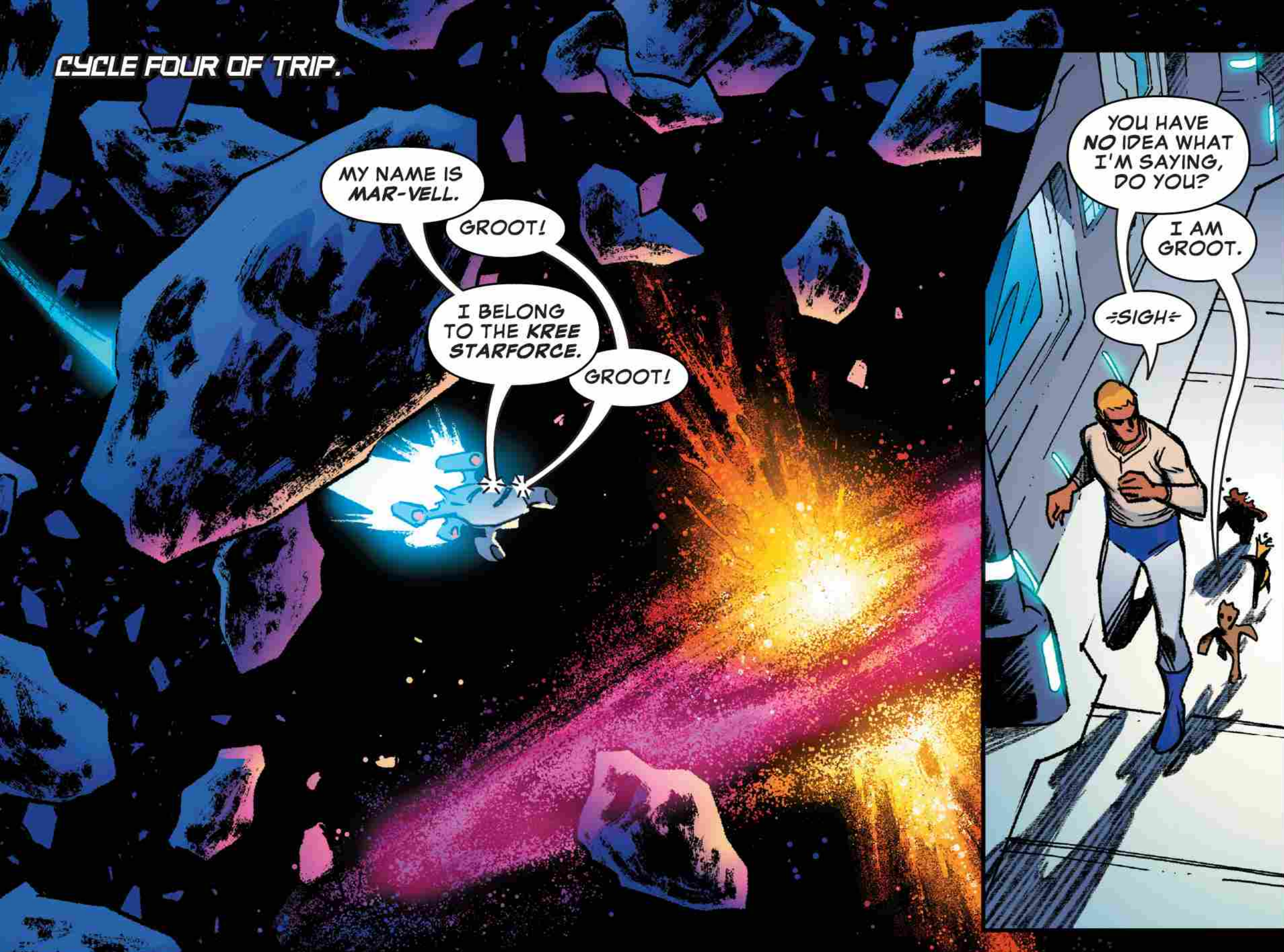
GROOT!
GROOT!
GROOT!



CYCLE THREE OF TRIP.



CYCLE FOUR OF TRIP.



MY NAME IS
MAR-VELL.

GROOT!

I BELONG
TO THE KREE
STARFORCE.

GROOT!

YOU HAVE
NO IDEA WHAT
I'M SAYING,
DO YOU?

I AM
GROOT.

=SIGH=



SO,
GROOT...I'M
CALLING HIM
GROOT...

...HE'S
THE OLDEST
OF THE
THREE. THE
LEADER.

I
THINK.

HE'S VERY
PROTECTIVE
OF THE OTHER
TWO.

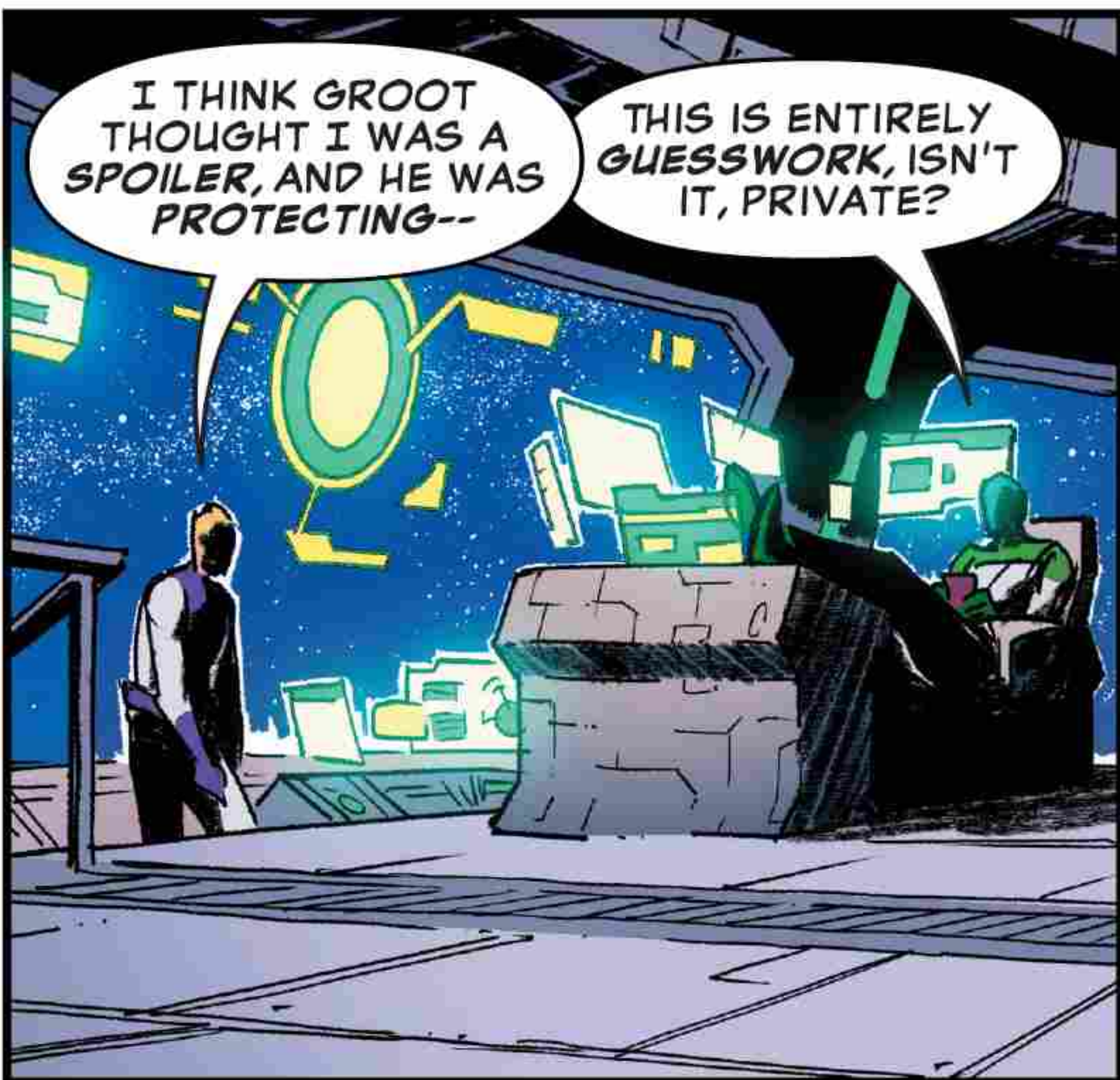
HE
CERTAINLY SUCKER
PUNCHED YOU
ON THANTALIS.



HE WAS DEFENDING
HIS FRIENDS, SIR.

YOU'VE
GIVEN THEM
NAMES
TOO, I'M
GUESSING?

GLEEF.
AND...
TWEEG.



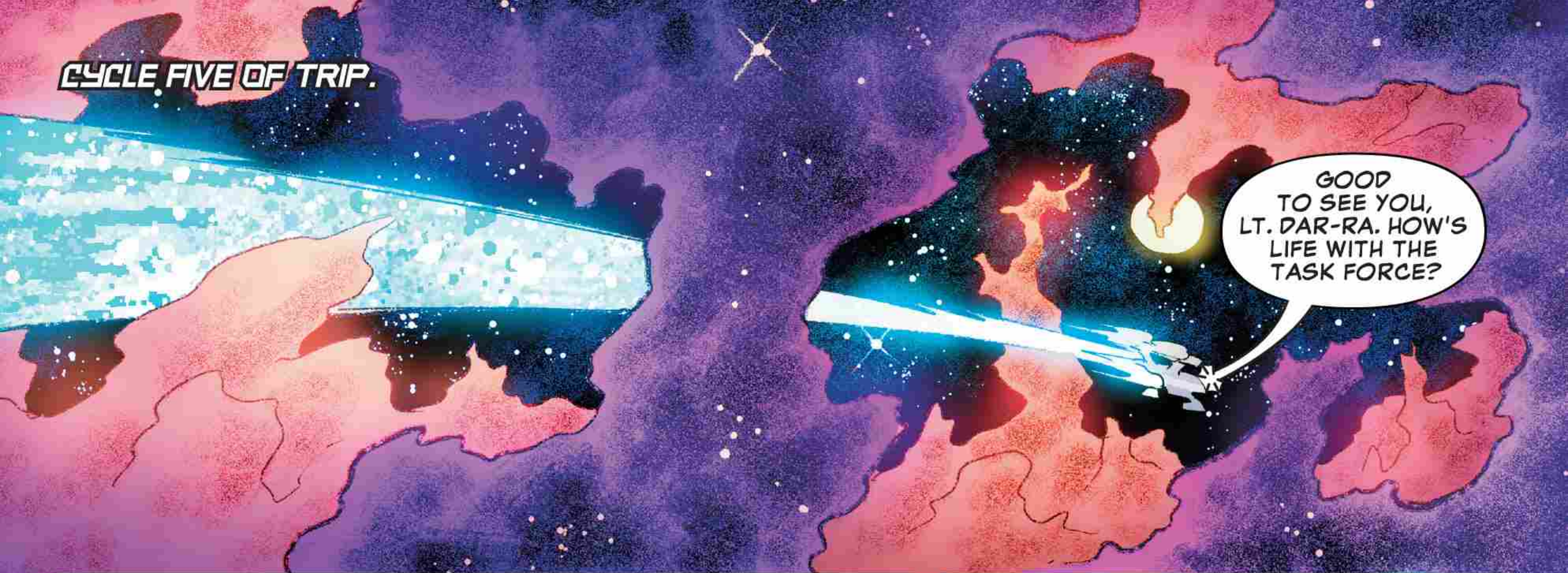
I THINK GROOT
THOUGHT I WAS A
SPOILER, AND HE WAS
PROTECTING--

THIS IS ENTIRELY
GUESSWORK, ISN'T
IT, PRIVATE?



NO
QUESTION
ABOUT IT,
CAPTAIN.

YOU'RE
DOGGED,
MAR-VELL. I'LL
GIVE YOU
THAT.



GOOD TO SEE YOU, LT. DAR-RA. HOW'S LIFE WITH THE TASK FORCE?



IT'S BEEN BUSY, CAPTAIN. WE CAUGHT THE SPOILER FLEET JUST SHY OF THE SHI'AR GULF. MAJOR ENGAGEMENT.

FLARK! AND?

IT WAS BRUTAL. I'M SORRY TO SAY AGZ AND HIS FORCES MANAGED TO BREAK OFF AND ESCAPE.



OH, I BET YON-ROGG IS SEETHING.

THE COLONEL IS... DISPLEASED, I'LL SAY THAT.

TO MAKE IT WORSE, THE SPOILER FLEET'S GONE TO GROUND. WE HAVE NO IDEA WHERE THEY'RE HIDING.



WE'RE NOW SEARCHING THE QUADRANT SYSTEM BY SYSTEM.

AND THE MERCHANT GUILD?

THEY HAVE STRENUOUSLY DENIED ALL COMPLICITY. SO UNTIL WE FIND THE SPOILERS, WE HAVE NO CASE TO BRING AGAINST THEM.

THAT HAS NOT IMPROVED THE COLONEL'S MOOD.



ANYWAY, HOW ARE THINGS ON THE HALA?

FINE. WE MISS YOUR COMPANY.

AND IS PRIVATE MAR-VELL CURBING HIS INITIATIVE?



THE BOY'S KEEN. SO WAS I AT HIS AGE. HE MAY MAKE A FINE OFFICER ONE DAY. I DON'T KNOW IF HE'S UNSURE OF HIMSELF OR TOO SURE. IF I KEEP MY EYE ON HIM, HE'LL BE FINE.

ASIDE FROM THAT... I AM GROOT.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

I DON'T KNOW, DAR-RA...

"...BUT WHEN WE ARRIVE AT PLANET X NEXT CYCLE, I'M HOPING TO FIND OUT."

CYCLE SIX. PLANET X.

ORBIT
LOCKED,
CAPTAIN...

...SCANS SHOW
SIGNIFICANT AREAS
OF THE PLANET'S
SURFACE HAVE
BEEN RAZED.

SPOILER
ATTACK?

LOOKS
LIKE IT, CAPTAIN.
BUT IT'S NOT A
TOTAL ERASURE,
UNLIKE THE OTHER
WORLDS THEY'VE
HIT.

STRANGE.

LET'S
TAKE HER
DOWN...

"...I WANT TO MAKE CONTACT WITH THE NATIVE LIFE-FORMS. GET SOME ANSWERS. THIS SEEMS TO BE THE ONLY WORLD THAT'S SURVIVED A DIRECT ATTACK BY THE SPOILERS."

"AND TAKE OUR PASSENGERS HOME, CAPTAIN?"

"YEAH,
THAT TOO."



TO BE CONTINUED!

Before he was a Guardian of the Galaxy ... before the Grootfall ... a young Groot sapling lived a life of tranquility on his serene homeworld. But when his home is threatened, he must accept his heroic destiny!

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS...

GROOT

writer
DAN

ABNETT

artist
DAMIAN

COUCEIRO

artist
MATT

MILLA

letterer
VC's TRAVIS

LANHAM

cover artist
LEE

GARBETT

variant cover artists

**PEACH MOMOKO; BENJAMIN SU;
PETE WOODS; SKOTTIE YOUNG**

designer

CARLOS LAO

assistant editor

KAT GREGOROWICZ

editor

DARREN SHAN

editor in chief

C.B. CEBULSKI

Groot created by STAN LEE, LARRY LIEBER & JACK KIRBY

NEXT

#2



Groot's home planet is no more! But who or what were the mysterious invaders that decimated it? And what life is still lurking in the once lush forest? Groot and Mar-Vell will need to stay on their toes, as they're being stalked by Yondar the hunter!



ZONE